WASHING AND IRONING THE ELECTRIC WAY

The following demonstration was prepared for use on the Farm Equipment Tour program and similar meetings. This was developed from the standpoint of giving an overall demonstration on the selection, operation and care of electric laundry equipment.

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WASHING AND IRONING THE ELECTRIC WAY

Demonstration on Electric Laundry Equipment
for
The Farm Equipment Tour Program - 1940

Introduction

It is a pleasure, indeed to have the opportunity to discuss with you this afternoon, an easier way to do that ever-present job of washing and ironing. To be able to wash and iron the electric way is one of the greatest things your cooperative has brought to you. It is also timely to have this demonstration on the program with the discussion on water systems, for a good supply of hot and cold running water, along with the electric washer, means cleaner clothes with little effort.

Planning a Laundry Center

With the aid of electricity, you can for the first time bring the whole laundry job together and do it in one place. And why shouldn't we give some thought to that? It is such a waste of time and energy to wash in one place, iron in another, and store the clothes in still some other place. Think of the convenience of having all of this equipment grouped together in some place where you can wash and iron in comfort every season of the year! Do give some thought to it, ladies, for with some careful planning, I believe room can be found in most farm homes for a laundry center. Perhaps a part of the back porch can be used, or a pantry, or closet, or even a part of the kitchen. The electric laundry equipment of today is so nice looking in design and appearance that we don't

mind having it in the kitchen. (Use Laundry Chart to illustrate wiring and lighting, and arrangement of equipment.)

General Buying Guide

Now, let's consider the purchase of laundry equipment. Many of you have already bought your washers and irons, but for those who may be buying them soon, I should like to urge you to:

1. Buy from reputable manufacturers and reliable dealers -- who will give you service when you need it.

2. Buy equipment that is approved by Underwriters' Laboratories, which means that it has passed certain safety tests. If you are not familiar with Underwriters' Laboratories, and what they do, I suggest that you study this in your community club.

3. Learn as much as you can about different types of laundry equipment before you buy, and consider whether it will do the job you want done.

These rules will apply to any electrical equipment.

Washing Machines

The performance of a washing machine is judged by the size washing it can do, and how well it does the job. How many women here this afternoon have electric washing machines?

(Elaborate on this. The response to this question is indicative of how much time to spend on selection. If many have washers, state that only a few points on selection will be made for the benefit of those who may be buying soon, or for them to pass on to their neighbors.)

The washing machines on the market today may be grouped into three general classes.

1. Single tub with the roll-type wringer (for extracting water).

2. Single tub with spinner basket (for extracting water).

3. The complete-automatic washer.

We have examples of each on the platform here today. (Change to fit type of equipment available. Show difference between each type.)

The essential difference between these two types -- this with roll-type wringer and that with the spinner basket -- is in the manner in which the water is removed from the clothes. The construction, as far as the size, design and finish of the tubs, and the size and location of the motors are concerned, is very similar; and both have an agitator for washing the clothes. (Show agitators from both tubs.) These two washers are typical of many good makes of washers on the market.

A washer of eight-or nine-pound capacity will take care of the average farm family. Inquire about the capacity in pounds when you are shopping for a washer. Note the location of the controls. They should be within easy reach of the operator. Also note whether the washer rolls easily. This is important in homes, where it is necessary to move the washer after it is loaded.

I especially want to call your attention to this pump. (Show how pump works by pumping water from that washer into tub of other washer on stage.) It is driven by the motor, and the water may be pumped out of the tub with a turn of a switch. This is a great time- and energy-saver, for few farm homes have floor drains. There is

an additional cost of around $5 to $8 for this pump. I believe that it is worth the extra cost and will pay for itself over a period of years in the saving of time and energy.

If you choose a washer with a wringer (have wringer type where it may be easily seen *), the following points are important:

1. Soft rubber rolls, which prevent injury to buttons and buckles, and produces fewer wrinkles in the clothes.

2. Reversible rolls and double drain boards that can be adjusted to drain in either direction. Many washers have drain boards that automatically reverse themselves, when the rolls are reversed.

3. A safety release that is located so that it may be operated from either side of the machine. The safety release should be plainly marked to indicate its function. The release should operate easily and quickly (demonstrate), and both rolls should stop immediately. There should also be two inches between the rolls when the pressure is released. All wringers should meet these requirements for safe, efficient operation.

4. A means of controlling the pressure of the rollers, and there should be provision for stopping and locking the wringer in at least four positions. Some have as many as eight positions.

This spinner type is a newer way of removing the water from the clothes. The clothes are lifted right from the tub into this basket, the lid is fastened down, and with a turn of a switch the motor turns this basket or cylinder around very rapidly, thus spinning water out of the clothes. This is a very safe, easy method of damp-drying the clothes. There are no moving parts to get one's hands into. It takes out 30 to 40% more of the water,

*Note: The selection of a wringer that meets the approval of the Underwriters' Laboratories is most important -- particularly from the standpoint of safety, and special emphasis should be placed on point 3. Be sure the model used in the demonstration meets all of the requirements listed.

and there are fewer wrinkles in the clothes. This type, because of the design, costs considerably more than the wringer type.

Now, this third type of washer, known as the complete-automatic type, is the latest developement in home laundry equipment. It is completely automatic -- just add the soap and water, put in the clothes, set the thermostat and turn a switch, and forget the job -- the clothes are washed, rinsed, and damp-dried, without any attention whatsoever. These, however, require both hot and cold running water for installation.

Since it isn't possible for us to demonstrate that type today, I want to urge you to see one of these in operation at some nearby dealers (or in dealer tent -- change to fit local conditions).

Good Use of the Washer

The electric washer is easy to operate, and if you use good washing methods, you can always be assured of good results. Very briefly, I should like to outline the steps that should be followed for good results, and which will save time, energy and money.

1. It's a great time-saver to sort and mend your clothes the night before, and check clothes for stains.

2. Always remove stains before washing, for water may set them. This bulletin (show copy), Farmers' Bulletin No. 1474, is a "dictionary on stain removal," and a copy should be in every household. You can get it from your Home Demonstration Agent, or order it direct from Washington. (Give address if necessary.)

3. Soak your clothes -- it saves time, and gives better results. Long soaking periods not necessary -- 20 to 30 minutes is long enough. Much hotter water may be used, if clothes are soaked first. (Elaborate if time will permit.)

4. Prepare wash water, using water softener if necessary (explain), and add soap. Important to follow manufacturer's directions for amount of water and soap to use, and the length of time to wash clothes. Be sure to have water up to water line in the tub, and don't over-wash your clothes.

5. With the electric washer, boiling becomes unnecessary, except where sterilization is needed.

6. Don't over-crowd your washer. If your instruction book doesn't give you a chart for determining the weight of certain garments, then work one out for yourself, using hand scales, etc. (Elaborate.)

7. The clothes may be rinsed right in the washer after the washing is finished. (Elaborate.)

8. The use of blueing is optional. Not necessary, after we learn to use good washing methods, and if we have plenty of water.

9. Starching clothes is a matter of choice. Very desirable for many clothes, for it improves appearance, and helps them shed dirt. Starching is an art. But, first, you must start with properly made starch. There's a good recipe in this bulletin entitled "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering." I'll tell you more about it at the close of the demonstration. (Have copy of bulletin to show them.)

10. A clothes basket lined with oilcloth (may be on wheels) and a clothes-pin apron are great time-savers in hanging clothes on the line. (Show basket. Elaborate if necessary.)

How to Care for the Washer

Now, just a word about care. Do give your washer good care, and you will be repaid in good service. After each washing, rinse the tub out and drain well, then dry with a clean cloth. Its nice smooth surfaces are as easy to care for as a dish.

Release the pressure on the wringer rolls, and wipe the rolls after each use.

Wipe the cord off with a dry cloth after each use. Grease and dirt are very harmful to the rubber covering. Hang cord loosely over the hook on the side of the washer before storing.

Leave the lid off or slightly ajar, and store the machine in a dry, clean place.

Follow the manufacturer's directions for lubrication of the motor and wringer. Keep your instruction book in a handy place, so you may refer to it often.

Cost of Operation

The cost of operation of a washer is very low. Just about 3 KWH will do the washing job in your home for a whole month. At 5¢ a KWH, that would be only 15¢, which we all agree is a cheap way to get such a hard job done.

Irons

Now, let's turn our attention to hand irons. At this time, I want to show you a few of the new irons. I know that most of you have already bought your irons, but very quickly I'll tell you about the irons I have up here, because you may want to replace yours sometime. Then, you'll want to tell the new members of this Co-op about these new light-weight irons before they go shopping for irons.

(Show one with a permanently attached cord.) This iron has a permanently attached cord to save wear and tear on the cord. (Elaborate.) You can get longer wear from your present cord, if

you will always leave the plug attached to the iron, and connect and disconnect it at the convenience outlet, instead of pulling the plug from the iron each time.

Speaking of convenience outlets, reminds me to say that I hope none of you are ironing from a drop cord. The wire in the drop cord is too small to carry the load of an iron, and the socket is only designed to carry 250 watts. The better irons of today are 1,000-watt irons and should always be used from a convenience outlet. If you need an additional outlet, by all means have one put in. The cost is very low. The increased service you will get from your iron, and the assurance of safety, will more than offset the cost of having one installed.

The 1,000-watt, light-weight iron, with a heat control, is the newest development in hand irons today. This type iron speeds up ironing, and is much less tiring to use.

Moisture and controlled heat are more important in getting a nice smooth finish on your garments, than weight. So you really don't need to push around a heavy iron to get good results.

Studies show that in four hours of ironing, the iron is lifted 400 times. With a six-pound iron, you lift 2,400 pounds, over a ton! And while you have lifted that ton with one hand, you have pushed the iron more than three miles! Doesn't that make a $3\frac{1}{2}$- or 4-pound iron sound more sensible?

These irons I have here are typical of several good makes of

irons on the market today. There are many things in favor of this type iron.

The high wattage gives you quick heat, which means that you can speed up your ironing.

The thermostat means controlled heat. You can have the right temperature for every kind of fabric -- no scorched clothes, which is a saving in money. The fire hazard is reduced. Operating costs are less, because the heat is automatically cut off when the proper ironing temperature is reached. The saving in current alone, will soon pay for the difference in the price of these irons over the non-automatic type.

In choosing an iron, give consideration to a large sole plate, which means that you can get over the garment more quickly. The sole plate should have a heavy plating of nickel or chromium.

Choose a handle of a size and shape that is comfortable to your hand, and of a heat-resistant material.

A good iron has tapering sides with beveled edges, and a narrow point to get around buttons and into gathers.

Price

Good automatic irons range in price from $4.95 to $10. Irons within this price range will give years of good service. The "bargain price" iron of $1 to $1.98 is often not worth carrying home.

Cost of Operation

Five to seven KWH per month will do the ironing in the average

farm home. This at 5¢ per KWH will only cost 25 to 35¢ a month.

Care

Be sure to take good care of your iron. Keep the sole plate clean. Remove starch with a very fine abrasive -- one that will not scratch the surface. Rub occasionally with beeswax. Avoid kinks and sharp bends in the cord, and keep the cord free of grease.

-----I can never leave this discussion without saying a word about an ironing board. Now that you have an electric iron, do get a good folding ironing board -- one with good padding and well-fitted covers. It means so much in doing the ironing job easily and quickly. The old-fashioned ironing board, that was used on two wobbly chairs, often held in place by putting one foot on a rung, belongs in the "horse and buggy days." Not in 1940.-----

Ironers

Now, I want to introduce to you a piece of equipment that is drawing the attention of both urban and farm homemakers everywhere, and that is the electric ironing machine, usually spoken of as an ironer. It is a very desirable piece of equipment for the farm home, because it does the ironing job more easily and quickly than the hand iron.

While we discuss the types of ironers on the market, I am going to show you how easy it is to iron on this ironer.
(Iron curtain, napkin, table cloth or sheet, towels, and shirt during

the discussion. Have ironer placed so audience can see location of controls, etc.)

This is a rotary-type ironer. There is another type called a presser type. I hope you will take a look at both types and try to see them in operation, when you go shopping.

Each will do a good job of ironing, and you can easily do your ironing in 1/3 to 1/2 less time than by hand, and with much less effort. You can do this because this shoe is so much larger than the sole plate of the hand iron, and the work is practically all done by the motor. All you have to do is to sit in a comfortable chair and just guide the clothes as they go through the ironer.

Most ironers have both a knee and finger control, and it may be operated with either. With the use of the knee control, you have both hands free to handle the clothes.

There is a separate switch on this model for both the motor and the heating element -- which is desirable (explain), and the little pilot light here indicates when the heat is on.

The shoe on this ironer is equipped with two thermostats -- one at each end -- to control the heat, and give the right temperature for the fabric. I have this one set on cotton. (Change to suit type of marking on thermostat.) Two thermostats are used, in order that you may cut out this whole section of the shoe, if you are ironing on this end of the ironer, as I am doing now with this ruffled curtain. Controlled heat means a great saving in current -- a saving that will soon pay for the additional cost of buying

an ironer with an automatic heat control. So, please remember that when you go shopping for an ironer.

Now, let me call your attention to this curtain -- it is very easy to iron ruffles on the ironer.

You can iron fast or slow, for this ironer has two speeds -- some have more. (Demonstrate. Call attention to means for pressing and steaming.)

The last garment I am going to iron is a shirt, and it's very easy to do. (Elaborate.)

While I am finishing this up, I want to emphasize this point again -- that to do a good job of ironing, the clothes must be properly washed, starched, dried and sprinkled.

That reminds me to say a word about sprinkling. Proper sprinkling will cut down on the ironing time, and produce better results. Even distribution of moisture is necessary, and the best way to get this is to use a bottle with a perforated metal top. These tops only cost 5 or 10¢, and will fit an ordinary bottle. Use warm water, for it spreads more easily. Another thing, use a table to sprinkle the clothes on, and smooth out the wrinkles as much as possible. This saves a great deal of time in the ironing.

Another way to save time and current is to roll the clothes up smoothly, putting like garments together. Medium-size rubber sheets are nice to wrap sprinkled clothes in. They help to distribute the moisture and keep the clothes from drying out.

You can also save time, energy and current by organizing your

work so that when you sit down to iron, you will not have to be getting up to do other things. Have a rack to hang the clothes on. This is a very inexpensive one, or you can get one made at home. A bowl of water and a small sponge close at hand is another step-saver, for it is often necessary to add extra dampness to the garment you are ironing.

Also, plan your ironing so that you can iron all of the garments that require low temperatures first, then reset the thermostat for those requiring higher temperatures, so on up the scale. In this way, you save current, and you never have to wait for the ironer or iron to cool down so you can iron a rayon slip or silk dress.

Price of Ironer

Good ironers, with automatic temperature controls, may be purchased as low as $69.50 -- without the cover. The cover increases the cost from $15 to $20. The cover is not essential. (Explain.) Much depends upon your personal preference. The difference saved might well go into another piece of equipment. This investment is a reasonable one, considering the time and energy it saves, the low cost of operation, and the fact that 10 to 15 years' service may be expected from it.

Cost of Operation

The cost of operation compares very favorably with the hand iron. It has a higher wattage than the hand iron, but the fact that you can iron faster just about offsets the difference. Eight to ten KWH will

take care of all your ironing, which would be 40 to 50¢ per month.

Care

Keep this shoe clean. Use a very fine abrasive to remove starch. Be very careful not to scratch or mar the surface.

Follow the manufacturer's directions for lubrication of the motor.

Do keep your ironer free of dust. If it does not have a cover, one can be easily made out of denim or some heavy material.

Launder the cover for the roll frequently, and occasionally take the padding off and fluff it up. (Demonstrate how this is done.)

Summary

Now, to briefly summarize, for my time is up:

1. I hope you will give consideration to planning a laundry center in your home, so that you can get the maximum use from your new electrical laundry equipment.

2. Keep in mind the importance of buying from reputable manufacturers and dealers, whose equipment is approved by Underwriters' Laboratories.

3. To get good results from your electric washer and iron, it is necessary to use good laundry methods. Keep the manufacturer's instruction book and these laundry bulletins in a handy place. (Show bulletins.)

4. Additional information may be secured through your Home Demonstration Agent, your electric cooperative office, State Extension office, REA, and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

WASHING AND IRONING THE ELECTRIC WAY

Demonstration Outline

Time 20-30 minutes.

I. Purpose of Demonstration.

To give specific information on the selection, operation and care of washers, irons, and ironers, and show the advantages of having a laundry center in the farm home.

II. Stage Setup.

2 Washers -- one with spinner basket, and one with wringer. (One of these should have pump drain.)

2 Ironers -- presser and rotary. If stage is not large enough for both, place one down in front of stage.

1 Card table -- with following equipment on it: Clothes sprinkler, clothes stick, sponge in cup of water; shirt, damask napkin and ruffled curtain sprinkled and rolled up in rubber sheeting, small bowl, and clothes basket.

1 Clothes rack, with towels, sheet, child's dress, and table cloth on it. (Ironed before demonstration.)

2 Light-weight, automatic hand irons.

III. Demonstration Plan.

A. Introduction

1. Planning for good use of electrical laundry equipment.

2. Buy from reputable manufacturers. Buy equipment that is approved by Underwriters' Laboratories. If not familiar with Underwriters' Laboratories and what they do, suggest study of this in community club.

B. Washers

1. Selection

a. Types, sizes, construction, price.

b. Ask for show of hands of present users.

2. Operation

a. Importance of using good laundry methods to save time, labor, and clothes. Have washer level to lessen vibration and wear.

b. Show relation between good supply of hot and cold running water, and getting maximum use of washer.

3. Cost of Operation

a. Averages 3 KWH -- varies according to use.

4. Care

a. Rinse tub out after each use, and dry with clean cloth.

b. Release pressure on wringer rolls, and wipe rolls with dry cloth.

c. Wipe cord with dry cloth, and avoid any sharp bends or kinks in storing cord.

d. Follow manufacturer's direction for lubrication of motor and wringer. Store washer in dry place.

C. Irons

1. Selection and Operation (Since most users of electricity use hand irons, give points on selection from standpoint of guide for replacement and information to pass on to neighbor.)

a. Cords.

b. Use from a convenience outlet -- never a light socket. Have additional outlets installed if needed.

c. Weight-trend towards light-weight, 1,000-watt iron.

d. Thermostat.

e. Features.

f. Economy in time and labor and money, to get good ironing board.

2. Price

3. Cost of Operation -- Averages 5 - 7 KWH per month.. At 5¢ per KWH, the cost equals 25 to 35¢, a very nominal sum for such a hard job.

4. Care

a. Keep iron free of dust.

b. Keep sole plate clean and shiny. Remove starch that may stick to it with fine abrasive -- never with anything that will scratch or mar surface. Rub occasionally with beeswax.

c. Store in clean, dry place. Hang cord over hook.

d. Keep cord clean. Grease is particularly harmful to insulation.

D. Ironers

Introduce ironer as a new and very desirable piece of equipment for farm home. Emphasize great saving of time and labor -- that all types and kinds of clothing can be ironed on it. Urge them to see ironers in operation.

1. Selection and Operation

a. Types -- rotary and presser. Both may be had in portable or table models -- some are automatic.

b. General construction.

c. Thermostat.

d. Speeds.

e. Takes time to learn to operate it, just as it does with any other equipment. Easy to operate. Show steps in use of switches and controls.

f. Always use from convenience outlet, as you would iron. Be sure ironer is level.

g. Economy to organize work so all garments requiring low temperatures are ironed first -- then reset thermostat for those requiring higher temperatures.

Show use of little labor-saving conveniences, such as clothes sprinkler, racks, clothes basket, rubber sheeting, etc.

2. Price - With Cover and Without

3. Cost of Operation -- Compares favorably with hand iron, because you speed up the job. Averages 7 - 10 KWH per month. Saving in labor worth the small additional cost.

4. Care

   a. Keep free of dust, and store in dry, clean place. If purchased without cover, make one of denim or some heavy material.

   b. Follow manufacturer's directions for lubrication.

   c. Keep shoe free of starch -- same treatment for removing as for hand irons. Wax occasionally.

   d. Wipe rubber-covered cord with damp cloth to remove any film of grease, then rub with dry cloth.

   e. Care of roll - demonstrate.

E. Summary

1. Plan laundry center in the home for maximum use of the equipment.

2. Buy only equipment approved by Underwriters' Laboratories.

3. For good results from laundry equipment, use correct laundry methods.

4. Secure additional information from Home Demonstration Agent, electric cooperative office, State Extension Service office, REA, and U. S. Department of Agriculture.